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Union Election Commission meets media

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Sept—A media conference (2013) between the Union Election Commission and political parties, jointly organized by Myanmar Multiparty Democracy Programme and International Media Support (IMS), was held at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon this morning, with an address by UEC Chairman U Tin Aye.

Project Coordinator (Myanmar) Mr Glean Swanson from International Media Support (IMS), Coordinator Daw Khin Thazin Myint of Myanmar Multiparty Democracy Programme and editor-in-chief U Khin Maung Lay (a) Pho Thauk Kyar from the Golden Land Daily extended greetings.

In his speech, the UEC Chairman said that the UEC is reviewing its duties prescribed in the Constitution as well as studying election laws and system of other countries for its capacity building. In addition, the UEC has set the year 2013 for review, the year 2014 for training and the year 2015 for close supervision of free and fair elections.

A strategic plan is being drawn in cooperation with IFES (International Foundation for Electoral System) which is aimed at holding the 2015 elections successfully. Laws and bylaws which are being drafted by the UEC will be shown to political parties and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Cooperation of all political parties is of prime importance for successful holding of free and fair elections.

The CSOs and media play a crucial role in ensuring a free and fair election and development of the country. The CSOs and media should well aware of laws and rules so as to steer the electoral process, he urged. It needs to educate voters for electoral process. He called for collaboration of all political parties, the CSOs and media for the success of elections.

Officials and representatives from IMS, political parties and local media held discussions on the role of media and democratic parties, the role of political parties in democratic society, the role of linkage between political parties and media in other countries and linkage and relations between political parties and media in Myanmar.

It was attended by officials and representatives from IMS, international organizations, political parties and CSOs, media and guests. IMS was opened in Myanmar in May of 2013. Its objective is to carry out the capacity building of media men for three years. It is the first-ever meeting between IMS and its partner organizations. IMS has planned to continue holding similar seminar in the future.—MNA
